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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of perfect goodness, give us today a vision of You that we might be renewed by Your forgiving love and challenged by Your righteousness.

Inspire the Members of this body with Your presence. Give them such confidence in Your providential leading that they will find rest from their burdens. Let peace reign in their hearts, thoughts, and conversations, as You order their steps and direct their paths.

Sovereign God, You know better than we what is best for us and our world; so use us today for Your glory. We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2663, S. 2664, AND S. 2665

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2663) to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2664) to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007.

A bill (S. 2665) to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 until July 1, 2009.

Mr. REID. I object, Mr. President, to any further proceedings with respect to these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of my colleague, Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1200, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. We will have a series of probably only four votes, and those votes should start momentarily.

Following our caucus luncheons, there are three cloture votes with

which we have to deal. I am going to talk to the distinguished Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as to time limits.

I was thinking to myself, Mr. President, as the prayer was being offered by our wonderful Chaplain, Admiral Black, that one thing I could use a little help on is this scheduling. I mean, it is really not funny, even though it is kind of funny. One Senator has to leave at a certain time, one has to be back at a certain time, and another doesn't want us to do anything. So it is hard to make everyone happy, and that is one of my jobs: to try to make everyone happy. Sometimes it is impossible. So I would maybe alert the Chaplain that maybe he should start praying for a little scheduling ease sometime in the near future.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FEINGOLD AMENDMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon we will indulge in a little bit of nostalgia with another vote on the Feingold bill to cut off funds for our troops in Iraq. I don't know what our friends on the other side expect to accomplish, but if past experience is any guide, we already know the outcome.

Last May, 67 of us voted against the proposal to cut off funds for our troops in the field. Mr. President, 4 months later, 70 Senators—3 more—voted against it the second time. Two weeks after that, 68 Senators voted against it for a third time. And in December, 71 of us—more than three-fourths of the Senate—voted no once again to cutting off funds for troops in the field.

So the outcome of the final vote on the Feingold bill is obvious: The Senate is on record not once but four times

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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